

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A retainer for use in securing items within a vehicle comprising:

a lower mounting base having a mounting base upper surface and a mounting base lower surface and defining a central opening, the lower mounting base including at least one rail extending outwardly from and across the mounting base upper surface, a release member extending radially outward from the central opening, and a retainer leg extending outwardly from the mounting base lower surface, and

an upper component mountable to the lower mounting base, the upper component having an upper surface and a lower surface, the upper component including at least one rail extending outwardly from and across the lower surface of the upper component for engagement with the at least one rail of the lower mounting base, a central rib extending outwardly from and across the lower surface of the upper component for engagement with the release member, and an item-mounting member extending outwardly from the upper surface of the upper component for mounting items to the retainer.

2. The retainer as set forth in claim 1, wherein the retainer leg further includes opposing substrate-engaging surfaces.

3. The retainer as set forth in claim 2, wherein the upper component further includes a pair of side ribs extending outwardly from and across the upper component lower surface, the pair of side ribs are aligned substantially parallel with the central rib.

4. The retainer as set forth in claim 3, wherein the item-mounting member is a ring.

5. The retainer as set forth in claim 2, wherein the retainer leg further includes at least one leg finger that facilitates the insertion and removal of the lower mounting base within an opening in a substrate.

6. The retainer as set forth in claim 5, wherein the at least one leg finger extends through the central opening in the lower mounting base.

7. The retainer as set forth in claim 1, wherein the release member has a fixed end and a free end, the free end is movable to permit the slidable release of the upper component from the lower mounting base.

8. The retainer as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one rail of the upper component includes a rail groove.

9. The retainer as set forth in claim 8, wherein the at least one rail of the lower mounting base includes a rail rib for engagement with the rail groove.

10. A retainer assembly comprising:

a base component including a first component engaging member, a retainer leg extending outwardly from the base component for removably anchoring the base component to a substrate, and a release member, and

an upper component including a ring, a second component engaging member for engaging the base component, and a rib for operatively engaging the release member.

11. The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 10, wherein the first component engaging member is a rail for engaging the upper component.

12. The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 10, wherein the retainer leg further includes at least one substrate-engaging member.

13. The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 12, wherein the retainer leg further includes at least one leg finger that permits the removal of the base component from the substrate.

14. The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 13, wherein the at least one leg finger extends through a central opening in the base component.

15. The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 10, wherein the release member has a fixed end and a free end, the free end is movable to permit the slidable release of the upper component from the base component.

16. A retainer assembly comprising:

a base component including a retainer leg extending outwardly from the base component for removably anchoring the base component to a substrate, the retainer leg including at least one substrate-engaging member, the base component also including a release member, and

an upper component including an item-receiving member and a component engaging member for operatively coupling the upper component to the base component.

17. The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein the upper component further includes a rib for operatively engaging the release member.

18. The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein the base component further includes a component engaging member for operatively coupling the base component to the upper component.

19. The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 18, wherein the component engaging member is a rail.

20. The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein the base component includes an opening, the retainer leg defining at least one leg finger extending through the opening for selectively removing the base component from the substrate.